

DECISION RECORD
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PORT MOLLER RADIO RELAY SITE, PLO 2374

I. Decision:

It is my decision to recommend the partial revocation of Public Land Order (PLO) 2374, dated May 11, 1961, as amended, as it affects the lands described in the PLO as the Port Moller Area containing approximately 304.18 acres of land.

PLO No. 2374 segregated the subject lands from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, but not the mineral leasing laws, or the Act of July 31, 1947, 30 U.S.C. 601-604 for disposals of materials.

The Air Force constructed its facilities at Port Moller in 1959. The site totals 304.18 acres and served as a communications link between similar sites at Cold Bay and Port Heiden, Alaska. The Port Moller Radio Relay site initially functioned as a co-located Defense Early Warning (DEW) radar site and a White Alice tropospheric facility until 1969, when it was converted to a radio relay site. With the advent of remote satellite communications and satellite earth stations in the 1970's, this site became obsolete, and became inactive in November of 1978.

On June 4, 1981, the U.S. Department of the Air Force, submitted a Notice of Intention to Relinquish, covering 304.18 acres of land withdrawn from the public domain by PLO 2374, and described as the Department of the Air Force Port Moller Radio Relay Site.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The United States Air Force indicated that the lands are no longer needed for the purposes for which they were originally withdrawn.

By partially revoking PLO 2374, a valid state selection attaches to the parcels, resulting in transferring responsibility for subsistence issues from the Federal Subsistence Board to the State of Alaska. Even though subsistence may be indirectly affected, ANILCA clearly states that nothing in Section 810 regarding subsistence "shall be construed to prohibit or impair the ability of the State . . . to make land selections and receive any conveyances pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act."

No land use plan exists for this area. However, the environmental analysis assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal, 43 CFR 1610.8 (b) (1). The decision to authorize the Proposed Action will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The Proposed Action would partially revoke PLO 2374. Upon revocation the State of Alaska would have a valid selection for the parcels. Subsistence Management responsibilities would transfer from the United States to the State of Alaska. The ultimate land uses and management under the State of Alaska are not known nor can they be speculated. Therefore, it is unknown how the Proposed Action would affect subsistence uses.

/s/ Peter Ditton
Anchorage Field Manager

02-11-02
Date